

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 20, 21, and 23 through 26 are pending, with Claims 20, 25, and 26 being independent. Claim 22 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 20, 25, and 26 have been amended.

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph, as lacking written description. All rejections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been mooted by the cancellation of that claim without prejudice.

Claims 20 through 26 were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent Nos. 5,706,210 (Kumano, et al.), 5,485,246 (Hayashi, et al.), and 5,644,405 (Sato). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 20, 25, and 26 variously recite, inter alia, adding information unrelated to the command to the response, wherein the information, which is related to a status of the data communication apparatus, is added to a response corresponding to the command when the command is related to other than the status of the data communication apparatus.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that none of Kumano, et al., Hayashi, et al., and Sato, even in the proposed combinations, assuming, arguendo, that the documents could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 20, 25, and 26.

With respect to Kumano, et al., Applicants respectfully note that said documents shows, e.g., that a polling command is used (Fig. 3A) which is submitted by Applicants not to be a command related to other than the status, as claimed.

It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Daniel S. Glueck/
Attorney for Applicants
Daniel S. Glueck
Registration No. 37,838

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
DSG/cmg

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